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A day of discovery

Employers get close-up view of their reservists on duty

By Senior Airman David Atchison
Public Affairs

During the June UTA, reservists' employers got a taste of what it's like to walk a day in the boots of a reservist. At the annual Employer's Day, Dobbins Air Reserve Base opened its gates to the men and women who support reservists on a daily basis, their bosses.

The goal of Employer's Day is to help maintain a good relationship between the Air Force Reserve and civilian employers by familiarizing the employers with the duties of reservists. When reservists are burdened with duty, the effect ripples through businesses that must take up the slack to keep the operation going without their reservists. As part of the program, employers not only see reservists in action, they have an opportunity to share ideas and concerns about their employees' participation in the Reserve.

"I definitely have a new appreciation for what reservists do," said Forolyn Caver, a Coca-Cola supervisor, "Elias



Above: Master Sgt. David Williams 94th Aerial Delivery Flight supervisor briefs employers about the capabilities of a 60K Loader during the Employer's Day tour last month.

Below: Employers get a look at the inside of the C 130H prior to their orientation flight. (Photos by Don Peek)

Delivery Flight. Presenters at each stop briefed the group on their unit's mission and how reservists meet mission requirements.

"Flying on one of those things really brings back memories," said John Worthington, sales and marketing director for Johns Manville, and employer of Staff Sgt. John Harris, 80th APS air cargo processor. Worthington, a former Air Force captain and C-130 pilot, said he enjoyed seeing so many employers interacting with reservists. He felt that the type of communication he saw between the groups helped the employers, who have never served in the military, to better understand some of the sacrifices military members have to make to have successful military careers.

"It's like this guy leads two separate lives," said Charles Artymovich, Lockheed/Martin supervisor of Maj. Richard Briggs, 94th Airlift Wing flying safety officer. Artymovich was curious to see just what his employee did at Dobbins during the weekends. Seeing how the base operates on a UTA weekend was a real learning experience according to Artymovich.

"This is the type of activity we need



Bob Idol, 94 Support Group explains the capabilities and requirements for Military Oriented Protective Posture V. (Photo by Don Peek)

out here," said Briggs. "By shedding light on what we do, it makes it easier for reservists to serve their country and maintain their civilian careers," he said. Briggs also feels it gives reservists a chance to show their employers another side of themselves that may not be present in the work place.

At a luncheon to thank the visitors, Brig. Gen. William Kane, 94th AW commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Stevens, 622nd Regional Support Group first sergeant and Employer Support for the Reserve and Guard ombudsman at Dobbins ARB, discussed the importance of strong employer and Reserve cooperation in meeting Air Force Reserve commitments.



Correa is an excellent employee, and I'm glad he gave me an opportunity to participate in this event." Also called Senior Airman Correa, he is an aircraft loader with the 80th Aerial Port Squadron.

After a continental breakfast, employers received an orientation flight on a C-130 and toured Base Operations, the 80th APS, and the 94th Aerial

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Around the Wing



(Photo by Don Peek)

By Lt. Col. Curtis Williams
94th Support Group commander

To the men and women of the 94th Airlift Wing, I'm looking forward to getting around to meet you to get a first hand account of what the issues are around the base. I'm truly excited about being back at Dobbins. Everyone has been so receptive and helpful in making my transition back to the 94th a smooth one.

As the Support Group commander, I think it is imperative for me to understand the concerns and needs of every unit assigned to the installation, to include our tenants. I'm really interested in finding out what concerns our personnel face.

The 94th's mission has changed considerably during the last few years. We face a number of new challenges and the way we once dealt with many issues may not be suitable today. To make up for the dynamics I will solicit input from all of our people to ensure their perspectives are considered in the decision-making process. Whatever the challenge, I know that everyone in the wing is up for it.

A concerted effort will be required to transition seamlessly with the wing's upcoming restructuring. I ask that as we meet our new challenges head-on and as

the demands increase, that we take time out for our family and friends. Several of you have heard me say, "The mission, the mission, the mission, is priority number one for the wing, but we all have to keep things in perspective. We must find a balance in our lives to ensure that we are able to meet these challenges with good health and attitudes.

I look forward to working with everyone throughout the wing and with all of the support of the "Dobbins Team" we will continue to be one of the Air Force Reserve Command's premier units.

Top-Three Connection



(Photo by Don Peek)

By Master Sgt. Rick Griepentrog
94th Communications Flight communications-electronic systems superintendent

Since the events of Sept. 11 and during our ongoing war against terrorism, the civilian population of the United States has found a renewed sense of patriotism and respect for the men and women in military uniform.

I see a heightened awareness by the public for the personal sacrifices made by military members on a daily basis. It is visible through personal observations and

through the eyes of the media. In a Memorial Day address given by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz at Arlington National Cemetery he said, "We remind ourselves once more who we are and what we stand for and what we are fighting for." These simple words really put it all in perspective and help to explain the renewed sense of patriotism and respect for military personnel that go hand in hand.

We've all heard this similar saying — "anything worth having is worth fighting for." This was apparent when the original 13 colonies declared their independence to King George III with the Declaration of Independence.

The American people knew this when war was declared after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The labor movement, the Civil Rights struggle, and the initial struggle for equal rights for women are all examples of people bonding together in a struggle to achieve a common goal or mission.

As members of the military, we're bonded together toward the defense of our country. On occasions where I had the opportunity as a military member to interface with the public, I received comments such as "Thanks we respect and appreciate what you do," and it makes me feel proud to be a member of Air Force Reserve.

The next time you have an opportunity to interface with the public while in uniform give them a chance to voice their support. Everyone wants to do his or her part no matter how large or small to contribute to the effort. It is also very important to let them know you appreciate their support.

We are in a time of need when the job we do is critical to our nations freedom. Freedom for our country wasn't easy to come by. Maintaining our freedom will never be an easy task.

Young Americans should always know the history of the struggles for American freedom. In due time, they will carry the torch of responsibility for maintaining that freedom. It is very important to know we have the continued support of our family, friends and countrymen.

Bugles sound at Dobbins

By Staff Sgt. Brannen Parrish
Public Affairs

Base personnel may have recently noticed the sound of horns trumpeting in the early mornings and late afternoons. That old but reliable music that announces the sun's ascent into the heavens and its inevitable decline below the horizon can be heard at 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Reveille and retreat are boomed across the installation by the base public address system, "Giant Voice." The system, which also sounds during weather warnings and emergencies, is operated by 94th Airlift Wing Command Post personnel.

Brig. Gen. William Kane, 94th Airlift Wing Commander revitalized the Reveille and Retreat function about 18 months ago but problems with the public address system prevented the regular playing until only recently according to Tech. Sgt. Tara Wylie, 94th AW Command Post superintendent. "We were having some technical problems with Giant Voice that prevented us from playing Reveille and Retreat on a regular basis but things are working properly now."

Military personnel and civilians should render the proper courtesies if they are outside when either song is played.

At the first sound of the bugle, military members in uniform are required to face the flag, or sound of the bugle if the flag is not visible, and stand at parade rest. As the flag is lowered or when the bugle call "To the Colors" is heard personnel should come to attention and render a salute. The salute is held until the flag is lowered or until the music ends. Civilians should stand with their hands on their hearts.

Civilians should stand at attention, facing the flag or music with their right hands over their hearts. Vehicles should stop during both reveille and retreat if safety permits. Passengers should remain quietly seated.

Minuteman



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94th Support Group welcomes new commander



Brig. Gen. William P. Kane, 94th Airlift Wing commander passes the flag to the new 94th Support Group Commander Lt. Col. Curtis Williams. Williams joins the 94th from the 914th Airlift Wing in Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Photo by Don Peek)

Command selects top services programs for 2002

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., and Niagara Falls International Airport Air Reserve Station, N.Y., once again won Air Force Reserve Command services program awards.

For the third year in a row, the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Services picked the 94th Services Squadron outdoor recreation program at Dobbins as the best in the command. The 914th SVS at Niagara

Falls retained the command's best marketing program title, while also snatching the best fitness and sports pro-

gram award for 2002.

The 452nd SVS at March ARB, Calif., was runner-up for the marketing award.

The 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron at Dover AFB, Del., received the readiness program award.

Master Sgt. Marilyn Kyle of the 459th Mission Support Squadron, Andrews AFB, Md., was named Services' top Air Reserve Technician.

AFRC/SV announced these awards in late May. Other individual

awards were announced earlier in the month. (AFRC News Service)



Do you have the spirit of a warrior?

By Col. James Stewart
908th Airlift Wing, commander



Over the years those of us wearing the blue uniform have borne the brunt of other services' jokes about being "civilians in uniform." Too often many of us have identified ourselves by our duty specialty and not as airmen and warriors. Our nation is at war! Particularly when deployed in support of operations like Enduring Freedom, we need to remember

to pack our warrior spirit.

So...some of you might ask..."How can I tell if I have the spirit of a warrior?"

Here is a test.

When faced with a situation which may prevent you from getting the job done. Do you:

A. Find a way to make it happen, or

B. Get frustrated, give up and make excuses?

You've finished the job you were assigned, and notice your coworkers are struggling. Do you:

A. Jump right in to lend a hand, or

B. Think to yourself, "It's not my job," and take a coffee break?

You've worked hard for 12 hours and know it will take another two hours to finish the job. However, if you leave the work for the next shift to handle, the aircraft may

not depart on time. Do you:

A. Stay until you see the aircraft lift off, or

B. Think to yourself, "I've done my fair share, it's Miller Time?"

You are a supervisor and your boss seldom visits your work area. Do you:

A. Work right beside your folks, encouraging and leading them by example, or

B. Issue instructions to them, then go surf the internet and drink coffee?

Your supervisor asks you to do one of those jobs you know needs to be done, but you think it should be done by someone several grades junior to you. However, all those junior folks are working like demons. Do you:

A. Do the job yourself, or

B. Complain and ask why your supervisor can't get someone else to do it?

Do you think about:

A. Ways you can contribute to the overall wing mission regardless of your specialty, or

B. What's in this for me?

Are you a member of the Reserve to:

A. Defend the country and work with great people, or

B. Get medical and dental benefits, and earn some extra income?

If your answers are firmly in the "A" category, you most likely have a healthy warrior spirit. However, if you responded with more than a couple of "B" answers, your warrior spirit is seriously in doubt. For these people, I ask that you remember why you wear the uniform of this country.

On deployments the phrases "it's not my job," or "my shift is over" are words supervisors should never hear. Particularly when the airplanes we load, fix or fly may leave for places where people are getting shot at.

"Whatever it takes" is a phrase that may best cap-

ture the essence of a warrior. Beyond the usual pilot or combat controller stereotypes, warriors are people who process paperwork to get folks into the unit so it can perform its wartime mission. Warriors are services troops who do "whatever it takes" to feed and house everyone. Warriors are found in every specialty. The common focus of all warriors is a commitment to contribute whatever talents and resources they have to accomplish the mission.

Now, I expect certain behaviors of warrior leaders and warrior followers. The more difficult the conditions, and the longer the work hours, the more important these standards become.

Warrior leaders have three responsibilities. 1. Complete the mission/task assigned to them by their superiors. 2. Take care of the people assigned to them, making sure they are properly fed and housed. 3. To serve as an example to the junior warriors working for them. Those junior folks should trust you to: be fair, to work at least as hard as they do, go to the mat to make sure they are taken care of and have the resources needed to complete the mission.

Warrior followers also have three responsibilities. 1. To contribute as much as they can to the completion of the mission. 2. To support their supervisors and fellow warriors regardless of the long hours and difficult conditions. 3. To do what is asked of them quickly and with as much enthusiasm as they can muster.

If someone goes on deployment and really lives up to their responsibilities, I expect their supervisors to recognize and promote these warriors. On the other hand, I also want to know if we have people who do not live up to these standards. They should be "recognized" and dealt with as well.

Bottom line — We are in the military! The nation is at war! I hope you all either have or acquire a warrior spirit to help you live up to the proud tradition of service as a Citizen Airman.

Security Forces takes a bite out of terrorism

Two activated reservists bring four-legged partners from civilian jobs

Photos and Story by Senior Airman Micky Cordiviola
Public Affairs

Traveling around base you may notice a few new faces. These activated reservists love to play, appreciate pats on the back, work hard for a play toy and they don't complain. This sounds like the ideal co-worker and the 94th Security Forces K-9 unit's dog handlers strongly agree.

As of April, two dogs known as "Argo" and "Eddie" joined the Dobbins Security Forces family. Argo's handler is Staff Sgt. Justin Wilson, an Alpharetta police K-9 officer in his civilian job and a member of Security Forces, was permitted to use his four-legged friend for Air Force duty.

"The Alpharetta police department agreed that it would be a good idea to use Argo at Dobbins during my Reserve activation," said Wilson. "This gives us the opportunity to receive vital training while contributing to the Air Force mission."

Argo and Eddie require extensive training and work

constantly to maintain their sharp skills. This work includes training tests within their area of expertise. Argo is used for tracking people and sniffing out illegal drugs. Eddie, on the other hand, is used to sniff out explosives.

Eddie attended dog training school at Lackland AFB, Texas, in an 11-week course. The course provided extensive training and discipline Eddie needs to accomplish his tasks. Staff Sgt. James Mason, 94th Security Forces was paired with Eddie for use at his civilian job at Hartsfield International Airport.

"Eddie is a great dog," said Staff Sgt. James Mason, 94th Security Forces K-9 handler. "He is a valuable asset to Dobbins and plays a vital role to the security of the base." Both dogs are taken on foot patrols for perimeter safety searches and are used in random car searches. Their presence provides a strong deterrent to individuals plotting a crime.

"There is no better partner," said Wilson. "He is one of my best friends. We are together 24-hours-a-day, and I can always rest assured that my life is in good hands." Dobbins takes the lead among air reserve bases using K-9 force protection. It's the only Air Force installation using civilian dogs and the only Reserve base using a K-9 presence.

"We are the lead dog," said Maj. Jeff Tousignant, 94th security forces commander. "A while back, I was approached with the idea of using K-9s for security purposes. Then September 11th occurred and it seemed obvious. Capt. Charles Wertheim (94th Security Forces operations officer) took the tasking and made it happen." All personnel involved with the dogs agree that the K-9s provide a comfort factor

for all the people on base and a strong deterrence.

"The number one factor is deterrence," said Tousignant. "Dogs can do things humans can't. Their senses are a lot keener than humans and they have better capabilities if the situation arises. Our main job is to protect the people of this base and the K-9s give us extra tools to accomplish this task."

The dogs go through a tough certification process. A story explaining this process will appear in the August issue of the *Minuteman*.



Staff Sgt. James Mason leads Eddie around the truck to determine whether there are any explosives present. Eddie is also used during perimeter patrols.



Argo attacks helper Joey Leigh on command as Staff Sgt. Justin Wilson looks on. Joey Leigh is wearing a special bite suit that prevents bite injury. Argo is also trained not to attack unless the perpetrator moves.

AETC members to travel in uniform

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — To further demonstrate the pride and commitment America's airmen display every day serving the nation, and to heighten public awareness of the role the Air Force is playing in defending America, all members of Air Education and Training Command will be in uniform when on official travel, according to the AETC commander.

In a command-wide memorandum released April 29, Gen. Don Cook announced the uniform wear policy is in

effect immediately.

According to the command policy, airmen of all ranks in AETC will wear a blue service uniform, with either a short- or long-sleeve shirt including tie or tab, when traveling on temporary duty at government expense in the continental United States. Members have the option of wearing the lightweight blue or leather jacket.

"I am convinced we must demonstrate our presence in society," said General Cook in announcing the policy. "One way to do this is to proudly wear our

uniforms while traveling TDY at government expense. I believe this added visibility will remind the civilian population that the Air Force is a great way of life with many career opportunities."

The policy contains the following exceptions, and people may wear civilian attire when:

— Members with a confirmed flight upgrade under the Congressionally approved frequent-traveler benefits program. Members are reminded they may not accept on-the-spot upgrades when in

uniform.

— Conditions, such as long trips with extended layovers, would result in a less than professional appearance.

The uniform wear policy will also be reconsidered based on the continuing threat when in Force Protection Condition Charlie or higher.

Before traveling overseas, people must consult the Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide for uniform wear travel restrictions and should comply accordingly.

Reserve seeks volunteers to fill longer AEF tours

By Staff Sgt. Sean P. Houlihan
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Despite an increase in the number of 90-day air and space expeditionary force deployments, Air Force Reserve Command's policy of seeking volunteers first to satisfy these requirements remains unchanged.

"The policy of the Air Force Reserve Command's preference to use volunteers has not changed since 1999 when (Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC commander) made the commitment that AEF was job one, even in light of the events of Sept. 11," said Tony Tassone, AEF Cell director at Headquarters AFRC.

However, Tassone acknowledged, since the United States initiated its war on worldwide terrorism, Reserve AEF commitments to Operation Enduring Freedom and the enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq have evolved beyond limiting these deployments to two weeks.

Tassone said that with the new theaters of opera-

tions, including homeland defense, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper's decision to meet commitments within these theaters using the AEF framework, the process has changed to include combinations of tour lengths for reservists.

During the current AEF cycle (March 1, 2002, to May 31, 2003), the command must fill more than 800 support taskings with reservists doing two-week rotations and numerous aviation taskings with people serving various tour lengths. The cycle includes about 1,500 taskings that require 90-day commitments with no intermediate rotations.

Several factors are responsible for the 90-day tour lengths, Tassone said. These factors include the opening of new bases and theater commanders in chief requiring longer tours. Another factor is the inability to rotate large numbers of people on a two-week basis in and out of forward operating locations because of a lack of transportation. In addition, he said, people with certain aviation and support skills in high-demand career fields are subject to the longer tours.

"Despite the longer tours, volunteerism is still the first consideration of the AEF Cell as we try to fill those positions," Tassone said. "However, if the number of 90-day tours, with no intermediate rotation, remains at the present level, we will not have enough volunteers to meet the taskings."

As a result, AFRC will be forced to resort to mobi-

lizations to meet its requirements.

"This is not something AFRC will recommend, but that decision will be made by the gaining major commands if they need Reserve participation," Tassone said.

He said the command intends to offer up capabilities using volunteers with 15 days of availability in AEF Cycle 4, which is scheduled to begin in June 2003, with planning starting this summer.

In April 2002, Sherrard said AFRC favors filling its AEF commitments with volunteers because this "reduces the stress on our reservists and their families, as well as employers."

"It's the best way for us to operate," the general said. "I will do everything I can to fill our requirements using volunteers."

If the command maintains its current level of commitments throughout AEF Cycle 3, it will provide more than 30,000 volunteers in addition to its approximately 13,000 mobilized reservists.

"The goal of the whole AEF process hasn't changed: force projection through a stable and predictable deployment schedule for both active and reserve personnel," Tassone said.

He said the Reserve will continue, as it has for the past three years, to be a part of the AEF process by providing volunteers and aircraft in support of deployments in 15- to 90-day tour lengths to support Air Force requirements. (AFRC News Service)

SECAF reflects on past year, looks to future

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a message from Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche to Air Force personnel:

One year ago this month, I was sworn in as your 20th secretary of the Air Force and became, on that day, a proud member of a magnificent team of active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian airmen. During this time, I've had the deep honor and pleasure to serve alongside Gens. Mike Ryan and John Jumper, and our chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Jim Finch. It is impossible to imagine three more dedicated and professional Air Force leaders.

As I reflect on the year gone by, my first thoughts are with the airmen of our force who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our nation and the freedoms we hold dear. Remember them and their families. Their supreme sacrifice, along with the countless heroes who have gone before them, is why we live free in this great nation.

Each of you should be extremely proud of your achievements and service this past year, from combat operations and homeland defense in the war against international terrorism to your admirable and noble daily endeavors that guarantee the readiness, health, security and morale of our fighting force. In my travels around our Air Force, I've been impressed and humbled by your ingenuity, commitment and willingness to serve. Thank you for everything you've done to make our Air Force the best the world has ever known.

Of utmost importance to me is our

continued focus on warfighting, and honing the edge that enables us to remain expeditionary and responsive to the needs of our nation. The American people trust and admire what you do. They know that America's Air Force provides a full spectrum of air and space capabilities that deliver unprecedented firepower, mobility, awareness and deterrence to our joint forces. And, once again, they've witnessed first hand your truly remarkable performance during operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Through your incredible efforts in this campaign, from deploying troops and building bases to coordinating fires and engaging targets, you've again demonstrated the unrivaled skill of airmen. Consider what we've done for just a moment.

In the first eight months of our war on terrorism, we flew more than 35,000 sorties, employing 78 percent of the total munitions used and damaging or destroying nearly three-quarters of the coalition targets. Our tanker force flew more than 10,000 refueling missions, supporting aircraft from all services.

Our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, manned and unmanned, have flown more than 2,000 missions and, when combined with our indispensable space systems, delivered unprecedented battlefield awareness as well as a vision of the exciting future in this evolving mission area. Our heavy-lifters (cargo aircraft) delivered more than 2.5 million humanitarian daily rations to the people of Afghanistan. Our combat support units have occupied, established, or rebuilt bases throughout Southwest and Central Asia.

And we accomplished all this despite the challenge of waging a com-

bined campaign in a landlocked nation.

Through your efforts, you confirmed to our nation and the world the unmatched value, flexibility and promise of air and space power.

While we've achieved many of our objectives, there remains much work to be done. The fight continues, with many of you going into harm's way daily. Our ongoing missions and your unrelenting sacrifices testify to your commitment to eradicate this threat to our nation and freedom-loving people everywhere. Most important, we need to prepare and resolve ourselves to see this through to the finish, regardless of where the fight takes us.

Many of you are deployed around the world at remote and inhospitable settings, spending extended time away from your families. Many more are scheduled to deploy in the months ahead. Some of you no longer are benefiting from the air and space expeditionary force schedule and are facing more frequent deployments. We've asked many of you to put in long hours well beyond your normal schedules and we've stretched our force to cover expanded missions in new locations. Many of our people are affected by Stop-Loss.

We're working to mitigate the numbers affected as soon as possible, but until we do, our folks' lives will remain on hold until we complete this campaign. And we have thousands of Air National Guardsmen, Air Force Reservists, and Individual Mobilization Augmentees who are serving for extended periods at great personal cost to their civilian jobs and their family lives. I recognize your sacrifice and commend you for your service.

Our nation needs its Air Force as never before, and your Air Force needs each and every one of you, your talents and your service as never before. Yet,

regardless of these challenges, you continue to train, maintain and fight with a level of professionalism unmatched by any force ever assembled.

As I look to the journey ahead, I'm excited at the opportunities we have to serve our nation as we face the challenges posed by our evolving security environment. I look forward to continuing that journey with you.

I remain focused on developing new strategies for air and space power in this new millennium; delivering innovative and effective capabilities to the warfighters; improving Air Force retention, professional education and leadership development; eliminating the inefficiencies in how we do our business; and transforming our acquisition processes to ensure innovation and competitive vibrancy within our defense industrial base.

Most important, I want to ensure we care for our people and their families through these challenging times. Communication, engaged leadership at all levels, and a genuine concern for the value of our people and their daily sacrifices are vital to building and sustaining a motivated and capable force.

On that day one year ago, I committed myself to serve in a manner befitting of the great men and women of our Air Force and to serve just as each of you do every day all around the globe — with integrity, selflessness and in the earnest pursuit of excellence. Your entire leadership team — General Jumper; my talented undersecretary, Peter Teets; our vice chief of staff, Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong; and myself — is firmly committed to these values.

Your service and sacrifices the past year have been truly magnificent and have earned the justifiable admiration of our nation and the respect of the world.

Please tell them, We Remember

**Story and photos by
Maj. Jerry Lobb**
908th Airlift Wing, Public Affairs

Ready, steady, go. As Specialist Antonio Torres drifted slowly toward the patchwork of earth, his mind cast him back 58 years, and he imagined the fear and confusion as rounds of ammunition rained death and destruction on the descending paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, as they landed in the village of Ste. Mare Eglise, that D-Day so long ago.

On June 9, a 908th AW C-130 dropped Torres and the other paratroopers near the village as part of the commemora-

tion of the 58th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion. The 908th's aircraft was joined in formation by two other C-130s, one each from the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins ARB, Ga., and the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Mich. The three aircraft dropped approximately 120 paratroopers in two passes over the drop zone.



An Army paratrooper recovers his parachute after his jump near St. Mere Eglise on June 9.

The three C-130s transported the Army paratroopers from Fort Benning to France and England and back to Fort Benning.

The paratroopers who took part are assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C., the Ranger Training Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga., 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Air Field, Ga., and 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Ft. Lewis, Wash. The troopers participated in ceremonies and visited major battle sites, such as Omaha and Utah beaches and Point du Hoc, where they learned about the plans for the invasion, difficulties encountered and heroic actions of their units in 1944. Lt. Col. David McNeil, an Army reservist assigned to the Ranger Training Brigade, Fort Benning Ga., has played a major role in the Normandy commemoration since 1984. He served then as the 82nd Airborne Division's assistant project officer for the very first return of the 82nd to Ste. Mare Eglise. After his first

experience in Normandy, he was hooked. McNeil said, "Each year since I've gone out of my way to get soldiers back to participate in Normandy and then plan a jump with foreign troopers. I've had guys come to me 5, 10, 15 years later to tell me coming to Ste. Mare Eglise and jumping with foreign soldiers remains the best experience of their military careers."

"The people really treat us well, dinners every night, hosting the soldiers," said McNeil. "They love Americans and really show it. They treat us as if we were actually the ones who jumped in and saved them in 1944. Not only does the older generation remember, the people of Normandy and Ste. Mare Eglise in particular have gone out of their way to make sure everyone understands what veterans have done for them."

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members also participated in ceremonies and activities surrounding the anniversary and visited the historic sites with the soldiers. In a most "historic" moment, Air Force reservists and Air National Guardsmen were actually photographed marching about half a mile to and from a ceremony in the town of Montebourg. The event was held to honor French aviators who were caught attempting to escape to England where they planned to join General De Gaulle's Free French Army. The ceremony was held at a memorial erected where the Germans executed the aviators. As the ranking officer

present, Col. Heath Nuckolls, 94th Operations Group commander, participated in erecting a new flag pole over the monument.

Nuckolls said his overall impression of the trip was that it went very well. "We



Paratroopers stream out of a C-130 over Ste. Mere Eglise, France, on June 9. The 94th Airlift Wing, the 908th Airlift Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and the Michigan Air National Guard's 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Mich., were the three C-130 units participating in the 58th Anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.



Two U.S. Army paratroopers from the Ranger Training Brigade, Ft. Benning, Ga., walk toward the welcoming crowd after their jump on the drop zone near Sainte Mère Eglise, France.

had numerous comments from Americans and French that it was the best drop in eight years." Nuckolls said the most difficult aspect was the coordination, with the French Air Traffic Control, three separate flying units from both Guard and Reserve, and the Army paratroopers. "It is hard to put into words the feelings and admiration the citizens in that area have for the allied troops that landed on D-Day. We heard numerous stories. At Montebourg, the city was leveled by the bombing. During that time the residents took shelter in their cel-



Maj. Fred Singleton, 700th Airlift Squadron with the Leneveu family. One evening many on the trip went to dinner with this family in Ste. Mare Eglise. The Leneveu s had a huge collection of World War II memorabilia in their home.

lars. When the U.S. Army drove into town, they believed the city to be deserted. The residents came out of their cellars when they saw the Army. They said it was like ghosts rising from their graves. For many, all they had left was the clothes on their backs.”



In a most historic moment, Air Force Reservists and Air National Guardsmen were actually photographed marching about half a mile to and from a ceremony in the town of Montebourg. Seen here, members of the 94th Airlift Wing take part in the trek. The color guard and flight commander were provided courtesy of the U.S. Army.

“It was a real honor to participate and to learn more about the history of the invasion,” said Maj. Stan Jesionowski, 908th’s aircraft commander for the mission. “The people of Normandy were clear — they remember the sacrifices that were made by Americans to free France from the German occupation.”

The comments of Specialist Antonio

Torres, 5th Ranger Training Battalion mirrored those of his fellow soldiers: “It was an honor to participate in the jump on Normandy. It was the best time I’ve had in eight years in the military. As I was dropping, I tried to imagine the scene they saw that morning as rounds were coming up at them in the dark, and the confusion. I also tried to imagine what they must have been feeling. Instead, as we dropped we saw the crowd waiting on us. It was interesting to go to dinner with the family. They didn’t speak a word of English and we didn’t know but a few words of French, still, we managed to communicate and enjoyed our time together.”

Sgt. First Class Hernan Rodriguez, master trainer of the ground branch of the Airborne School at Fort Benning, served as the Drop Zone Safety Officer at Ste. Mare Eglise. He said he thought every trooper and soldier should have the opportunity to see what the allied forces went through as they made their assault in 1944.

“Be prepared to interact with the people,” said Master Sgt. Thomas Lovingood, an aircraft electronics specialist with the 94th. Lovingood recommended learning a few words and phrases of French to anyone planning to make the trip to Normandy. For Lovingood, the highlight of the trip was the appreciation he saw from the people of Ste. Mare Eglise, and how they passed it down from generation to generation. Fortunately for Lovingood and the rest of the maintenance

team from Dobbins, the aircraft experienced only a few minor problems, so they were free to visit the historic sites. Lovingood found the Omaha cemetery to be “heart-wrenching” as he saw all the headstones for the approximately ten thousand American soldiers and airmen buried there.

For the most part the commemora-



The jeep and uniforms are real U.S. Army vintage 1944. These are a few of the many French who honor those who freed Europe by preserving equipment and participating in reenactments.

tion was a serious affair. However there were a few lighter moments.

Four British ladies adopted the 908th crew. One of the ladies lived in a small town near Ste. Mare Eglise and the other ladies were visiting her. To protect the weak this article won’t reveal who shamelessly begged “no more!” at 1:30 a.m. as the ladies (the youngest must have been about 70 years old) threatened to open “just one more” bottle of wine.

As the aircraft approached the drop zone, Jesionowski and Senior Master Sgt. Ben Kemp, flight engineer, had a surprise. “Stan” and “Ben” were written in 4-foot tall letters on sheets on the ground. The family they shared dinner with orchestrated that little greeting.

Patches, coins, uniform items were hard to keep as the people in the area, particularly the children, are ardent souvenir collectors. All three aircrews stayed at a 300 year-old abbey in Montebourg, which also housed a school. If anyone stood still for more than a few minutes outside the building, they were quickly surrounded by

10 to 14-year old kids. More than once somebody commented dryly “So...this is what it’s like to be a rock star.”

Although there were lighter moments like these, the price paid so long ago, for the freedom to laugh and enjoy today, was inescapable. Cemeteries and monuments to those who died to make it possible were a major part of the Normandy countryside.

At a reception in Montebourg a tiny elderly French woman approached the group. In her hand she held a laminated sheet with a picture of a young Army Air Corps member, Lt. James West from Mississippi. Through an interpreter she explained that she cared for West’s grave at a local cemetery. She said she felt it was her duty to remember those who sacrificed everything to free her country. During most of her conversation she spoke only French. However, her last words to us were spoken in English. With a quiver in her voice and tears welling in her eyes, she said, “when you go home, please tell them, we remember.”



Re-enactments are an important part of the D-Day celebration. Spectators have the opportunity to see how soldiers fought during the storming of the beaches at Normandy.

Selected demobilization begins for Air Force

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - Air Force officials announced June 17 that a planned demobilization of reserve component forces would be limited in scope, affecting only selected groups of people across the service.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper said Air Force officials are formulating a plan to determine the right mix of active-duty, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard forces.

"Our mobilized guardsmen and reservists want to know when to expect demobilization," he said in the May 3 edition of "The Chief's Sight Picture." "The deputy chief of staff for air and space operations is coordinating an effort to evaluate our mission needs and determine which Air Force specialties can be demobilized as soon as possible. At the same time, we are evaluating where, when, and how to shift from a crisis response mode - with heavy reliance on mobilized Guard and Reserve - to our 'new steady state,' which would utilize volunteer guardsmen and reservists to help meet our mission taskings.

"We need these results to determine our long-term requirements for our mobilized members and how long to continue Stop-Loss for those in our most stressed skills."

More than 30,700 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard men and women were called to duty following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Another 7,900 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve volunteers are serving on active duty.

Most of those will remain for the duration of their activation orders, said Michael L. Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

"Many will serve until the expiration of the period of mobilization specified in their activation orders," Dominguez said, "unless that period of mobilization is extended by the secretary of the Air Force. When the command that issued the original mobilization determines that the speci-

fied forces are no longer required to perform the mission for which they were mobilized, they will be demobilized."

Other situations, such as involving a rotational plan agreed to by the affected active-duty and reserve component commands, will also likely result in demobilization, Dominguez said. Other guidelines apply for those Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty following

the terrorist attacks.

"Under certain circumstances," Dominguez said, "individual reserve component members ordered to active duty may be deactivated and discharged, or returned to reserve component control without the necessity of SECAF-level approval."

Those circumstances include discharge for cause (for conduct or performance problems), medical reasons or personal hardship, when the needs of the Air Force will allow it.

Other circumstances include deactivation when people are determined to be unqualified for medical reasons, when they are experiencing an unexpected temporary hardship, or when they are deemed unqualified because of a lack of prescribed training.

The procedures for deactivating those men and women who have volunteered and been accepted to remain on extended active duty differ slightly, Dominguez said.

"They will be deactivated on the day before the date of entry on extended active duty," he said.

Dominguez added that the responsibility for a suitable transition time for those who demobilize rests with commanders.

"Commanders will ensure that members who are deactivated or discharged are allowed adequate time to complete necessary travel and complete medical evaluation, if required," he said. "They will also be allowed time to use any accrued leave, if they desire."

Wing- and base-level military personnel flights have more information on the demobilization of air reserve component people. (AFRC News Service)

Legal guidance for DoD political activities

DoD personnel participation in town hall meetings

On March 7, the General Counsel of the Department of Defense issued an opinion regarding whether DoD personnel may participate in non-partisan public policy conferences and town hall meetings sponsored by individual members of Congress without violating DoD prohibitions regarding participation in partisan political activities. The opinion, which applies to military and civilian personnel, finds that those events that qualify under the standards set out in the memo, are not considered to be partisan political

events. The standards are:

- (1) DoD provides speakers to any member of Congress, regardless of party
- (2) The meeting is open to the public
- (3) The meeting is not a political fundraiser
- (4) The DoD speaker addresses only matters related to DoD
- (5) The DoD speaker does not endorse or support any partisan political candidate, cause, or issue
- (6) The event is dedicated to public policy and is sponsored by an organization that is not a political party, or is a "town

hall" meeting, which is an official Congressional function and not a political event.

The memo states that a "conference is non-partisan provided it is sponsored by an entity or organization that is not a political party." It is dedicated to public policy so long as the event is one in which "the speaker is invited to discuss the war against terrorism or any other official DoD business."

Electronic messaging technology could lead to Hatch Act violations

On May 30, the Office of Special Counsel issued an advisory opinion that addresses the parameters of use of electronic messaging devices to engage in political activity by Federal personnel. The Hatch Act, 5 U.S.C. 7321-7326, generally prohibits employees from engaging in political activity while in uniform, on duty, in a government building, or in a government vehicle.

The Hatch Act permits federal employees to express their opinions on political subjects and candidates both publicly and privately. Thus, the Hatch Act

does not prohibit water-cooler type discussions and exchanges of opinion among coworkers concerning the events of the day (including political campaigns).

To determine whether a communication by e-mail falls under the Hatch Act's prohibition against on-duty political activity, relevant considerations include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The content of the message, such as is its purpose to encourage the recipient to support a particular political party or vote for a particular candidate for partisan political office
- (2) The message's audience, such as the number of people it was sent to, the sender's relationship to the recipients
- (3) Whether the message was sent in a federal building, in a government-owned vehicle, or when the employee was on duty.

The advisory provides two examples, one actual and one hypothetical, on the use of electronic equipment. The first example involves a government employee who, on the day before the 2000 Presidential election, and while on duty using government equipment in a government building, sent a message on the computer captioned "Urgent! Forward to Undecideds & Naderites." The text of the message praised Presidential candidate Al Gore and encouraged recipients to forward the message to as many other people as

possible. OSC concluded that this action constituted a violation of the Hatch Act. The message was politically partisan because it asked the recipients to vote for a particular candidate and was sent to a mass audience, many of whom the sender did not know.

By contrast, OSC provided the hypothetical example where an e-mail was sent to one employee from another stating "follow-up on our discussion this morning." Attached was the text of a newspaper column critical of one of the Presidential candidate's tax proposals. OSC stated that this action did not violate the Hatch Act because it was sent to one person and was considered similar to the situation where federal employees may express personal opinions on political subjects when meeting face-to-face by the water cooler in the federal workplace.

The advisory concludes by stating that OSC would have to examine each case involving use of electronic messaging in a government building or vehicle to determine if a Hatch Act violation occurred. The advisory states that it is intended only to outline general considerations that apply and to alert federal employees about potential Hatch Act violations involving electronic messaging.

(Editor's Note: The information contained in this article was provided by the DoD Standards of Conduct Office)

July UTA Schedule

*schedule is subject to change

Saturday, July 13

TIME	ACTIVITY (OPR)	LOCATION
0700-0830	OPEN RANKS/SIGN IN (CC)	UNIT ASGND
0730-0800	WING ELEMENT STAFF MTG	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0730-0900	NEWCOMERS INTRO	BLDG 838/WCR
0900-1500	NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0900-1100	NBCWD (REFRESHER TNG)(CEX)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1100-1200	FIRST SERGEANTS GP MTG	BLDG 733/80APS
	OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICALS	TEMPORARILY CANCELLED
1300-1400	QTRLY PCIII WORKERS GP (MAR/JUN/SEP/DEC)	BLDG 827/RM 208B
1300-1500	CDC EXAMS	BLDG 838/RM 2304
1400-1500	UNIT REPS MOBILITY MTG	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1500-1600	DEPLOYMENT MGRS MTG(XP)	BLDG 838/WCR
1600	RETREAT (CC) UNIT: 700AS	BLDG 922/FRONT

Sunday, July 14

TIME	ACTIVITY (OPR)	LOCATION
0645-0730	OPEN RANKS/SIGN IN (CC)	UNIT ASGND
0730	PHYSICAL EXAMS	NAVY CLINIC
0730	M16A2/94CES TNG (SFS)	CA RANGE
0800-1100	IMMUNIZATIONS	NAVY CLINIC
0800-1400	INITIAL NBCWD (CEX)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
0900-1000	YELLOW FEVER SHOTS	NAVY CLINIC
0900-1000	CHIEFS GROUP MTG (PA)	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0900-1200	CDC EXAMS	BLDG 838/RM 2304
1000	IG COMPLAINTS	BLDG 838/RM 2105
1000-1030	ENL ADVISOR COUNCIL MTG (SEA)	BLDG 838/WCR
1000-1100	30-DAY RECORD REVIEW	BLDG 838/RM 1202
1130	CMDR'S WORKING LUNCH	COM (MARIETTA RM)
1300-1400	FLYING SAFETY	BLDG 727/700 AS
1300-1500	IMMUNIZATIONS	NAVY CLINIC
1315-1400	QTRLY SUPERVISOR SAFETY TNG (MAR/JUN/SEP/DEC)	BLDG 744/ 2ND FL TNG RM
1400-1500	UNIT MOBILITY DP REPS MTG	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1500-1600	QTRLY NEWCMRS MTG (94AW/CC) (JAN/APR/JUL/OCT)	CONSOL OPEN MESS

Herk Wonders



What rights do you think Americans take most for granted?

“Freedom of speech, because people take for granted the fact that they can freely express their ideas and opinions without being persecuted or punished.”

Tech. Sgt. Tara Wylie, 94th Airlift Wing Command Post, superintendent

“Most Americans take their freedom and liberties for granted. For myself, until I visited a 3rd world country I didn't know how good we had it.”

Tech. Sgt. Mark Clark, 94th Airlift Wing Recruiting Services, recruiter

“Most Americans take for granted their right to freedom. Until Sept. 11, people forgot what patriotism was all about and took freedom for granted.”

Master Sgt. Denise White, 94th Airlift Wing, Honor Guard

“I would say our freedom is taken most for granted. Americans don't realize how good it is to have the freedom to live our lives by our choice with regards to religion, voting and free speech.”

Maj. Rich Riddle, 94th Operations Support Flight

“The average American person takes all of their rights for granted and it's hard to put your thumb on just one.”

Chief Master Sgt. William Biggie, 80th Aerial Port Squadron

Want to see the UTA schedule sooner? The most current issue of the Minuteman is always available online one week prior to the UTA. Access -- http://www.afrc.af.mil/22AF/94aw/pa_minuteman.asp

Show your squadron pride

During the next UTA Reservist Appreciation Night, the squadron with the most participants will receive a pony keg and Hors d'voures party. A squadron commander is worth \$10 services bucks! Can you rise to the challenge?

Remember — during Reservist Appreciation Night we provide club members with dinner

featuring chicken supreme, Salisbury steak with onions, buttered linguini, fresh green beans and soft rolls. There is also a D.J., karaoke, lots of prizes and club specials! The next Reservist Appreciation Night will be Aug. 3, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Consolidated Club. The winning squadron must call 48 hours ahead for pony keg party at (678) 655-4594 and speak with Betsy Ford. Value of pony keg party is \$300.

Air Force Clubs to award three scholarships

Air Force Services is conducting the sixth annual Club Member Scholarship Program. Current club members of the Dobbins Consolidated Club and their family members are eligible for this beneficial program. Applicants must have been accepted or enrolled in an accredited col-

lege or university as a part or full-time student for entry during the fall 2002 term. The three scholarships to be awarded are: First Prize — \$5,000, Second Prize — \$3,000 and Third Prize — \$2,000. For information on eligibility, submission requirements, and an entry form, call the Services Marketing Office at (770) 919-4975. All applications are due July 15, to the Dobbins Chief of Services.

Southern Polytechnic scholarship available

Are you a reservist who will be attending Southern Polytechnic State University in the Fall of 2002? Are you a dependent of a reservist who will be attending Southern Polytechnic State University in the Fall of 2002? If so, the Dobbins Officers Wives Club has a \$1,000 scholarship available. For more information, call Lynn Murray at (770) 528-7307 from the Southern Polytechnic State University Office of Development.

On the go eating

The Verhulst Hall Dining facility continues the "Meals to Go Window." During UTA lunches, call the menu line at (770) 919-3872 to find out what is on the lunch menu and then fax your order to

(770) 919-3430. Be sure to include your name and unit. If you do not have access to a fax machine, you can also place orders at the window. Individuals must be present to sign for their meal. Multiple orders for pick up by a single person can be handled through the window. The window is located at the rear of the dining facility across from the billeting office.

Dobbins Inn now hiring

The Dobbins Inn now hiring for its newly renovated building. For more information, call Missy Bozeman at (678) 655-4797.

Will you be traveling this summer?

Preventing crime during family travel starts with making sure your home is protected while you're away. The key is to make it look like you never left. Make the home look lived in.

- * Keep shades and blinds in their normal positions. They should be closed. You don't want the contents of your home easily seen from the outside.

- * Stop mail and newspapers, or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.

- * Put several household lights on timers so they turn on and off at appropri-

ate times.

- * Arrange to have grass mowed while you're gone.

- * Make sure all of your door and window locks are in working order.

- * Activate your home alarm.

- * Let a family member or trusted friend know you are going away. Give them the details of when you are leaving and your expected return.

Parent care

As medicine improves, people are living longer. The question of how to help care for older parents has become all too common. More importantly, how to address the situation while respecting your parents' choices can sometimes be overwhelming. As assessment of a parent's mental, physical, environment, social and financial condition will help you along the way. It is essential that your parents participate in the discussion and decision making before they are unable to do so. Professional services are available. Some hospitals, clinics and social service offices offer geriatric assessments.

Some resources include AARP Caregivers Circle Discussion Board at www.aarp.org; National Council on Aging benefits checkup at www.benefitscheckup.org; and Eldercare locator at www.aoa.gov/directory or (800) 677-116.

October celebration to commemorate 20 years of H-Model planes

On October 12, 1982, the 94th Airlift Wing received its first brand-new, straight from the factory C-130 Hercules. The plane was the first in the delivery of new aircraft to the Air Force Reserve. You might recognize it now. Its tail number is 626.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the wing's step into a new era of flying, and in conjunction with this year's Fall Fling, special events are planned during the week of the October unit training assembly.

Along with C-130 flying events and special displays, a golf outing is planned, commemorative coins will be available, and the original crew will be in attendance. A special program, recognizing the wing's accomplishments with the C-130 aircraft, is also planned to kick off the Fall Fling.

As part of the celebration, there will be plenty of chili and wings, snacks, drinks and door prizes. The event is planned to be open to the families of reservists, Dobbins employees and retirees. Watch in upcoming issues of the *Minuteman* for more details.

Family Day 2002

On Sept. 7 from noon until 4 p.m., Dobbins Air Reserve Base will have its annual Family Day event. There will be food, music and games. It will be lots of fun for everyone. Plan on attending and bringing your family. During the event the base plans to recognize activated members and their families.

94th boasts two Senior NCO graduates

 Herk Ye



Two members of the 94th Airlift Wing graduated from the Senior NCO Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., on June 12. Attending the event were (left to right), Senior Master Sgt. Joe Martynski, 94th Operations Group; Graduate Master Sgt. Steven Gilreath, 94th Civil Engineer Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. E.G. Robinson, 94th Civil Engineer Squadron; Brig. Gen. William P. Kane, 94th Airlift Wing; Lt. Col. Stan Gibson, 94th Operations Support Flight; Graduate Master Sgt. Mike McDonald, 94th Aerial Delivery Flight; and Command Chief Master Sgt. James Woods. (Photo by Kim Gibson)

Newly Assigned

Col. Gerald Micheletti
Lt. Col. Curtis Williams
Maj. Gregory D. Halen
Maj. Larry G. Murphy
Capt. Mark S. Monroe
Capt. Larry J. Odom Jr.
Capt. Anita K. Pavey
Capt. Rachel Young-Douglas
Senior Airman Crystal L. Conyers
Senior Airman Kimberly P. Forte
Senior Airman Niyssha L. Harris
Senior Airman Hsanni A. Henry
Senior Airman Quincy D. Johnson
Senior Airman Christopher Payne
Senior Airman Tiffany D. Sneeze
Airman Michael P. Sapanza
Airman Basic Kelly M. Lee

94th civilian wins command-wide award



Brig. Gen. William P. Kane, 94th Airlift Wing commander presents the Air Force Reserve Command Safety Person of the Year award to Doug Conner, safety specialist, 94th Airlift Wing Safety Office. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brannen Parrish)

ATTENTION Dobbins Phone Number Changed

As of June 28, the Dobbins Air Reserve Base phone number prefix changed from (770) 919-XXXX to (678) 655-XXXX. On-base calls should be dialed using 5-XXXX. The DSN exchange continues to be 625-XXXX.

Colorado-based C-130 crews widen war on wildfires

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. ñ After spending two weeks fighting fires in Colorado, C-130 aircrews are establishing a forward reloading base to drop retardant on wildfires outside the state.

Air Force reservists from Peterson's 302nd Airlift Wing and Air National Guardsmen from the 145th AW, Charlotte, N.C., flew two sorties June 28 to the Lost Cabin Fire near Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota, delivering 5,400 gallons of slurry.

From June 14 through July 1, two Air Force Reserve Command C-130s and four Guard planes assisted U.S. Forest Service firefighting efforts, dropping 513,000 gallons of retardant in 195 sorties.

Guard and Reserve crews provide the Department of Defense's only fixed-wing firefighting capability using Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System equipment.

The MAFFS crews hope a forward reload base in Cheyenne, Wyo., will be established by July 4 to deal with

fires north of Colorado, thereby avoiding the need to return to Peterson after every sortie. They believe the base can be up and running quickly because the Wyoming Air National Guard already has a MAFFS operation in Cheyenne.

"We've run satellite reload bases at other MAFFS stations," said Lt. Col. Luke Coker of the 302nd AW and mission commander July 1. "Reload bases give us more flexibility because they are easier to do than relocating the entire operation to another location, yet they allow us to more efficiently fight fires that are farther away."

Coker and others recognized the need for the satellite reload base June 29 when crews returned to South Dakota 19 times to drop 43,200 gallons of retardant on the Grizzly Gulch Fire outside of Deadwood. MAFFS crews also flew to Wyoming seven times to deliver 18,900 gallons of slurry on the Reese Mountain Fire near Wheatland, and closer to home deposited 15-sortie loads (40,500 gallons) on the Fish Creek Fire northeast of

Denver.

The Guard and Reserve crews returned to the Grizzly Gulch and Fish Creek Fires the next day, dropping 48,600 gallons of retardant in 20 sorties.

On July 1 they turned the attention on tinderbox locations in Colorado. The MAFFS crews dropped 16,200 gallons of slurry in six sorties on the Mission Ridge Fire near Durango and 13,500 gallons in five sorties on the North Bald Fire in the Roosevelt National Forest in north central part of the state. They also delivered 13,500 gallons of retardant on the Reese Mountain Fire in Wyoming.

"It's a real pleasure working with the 302nd and the support that we have received from all military personnel associated with this operation," said George Brooks, MAFFS liaison officer for the U.S. Forest Service. "It has been a very safe operation, and that is our primary goal, the safety of all firefighters." (AFRC News Service)

Tribute to a Friend

Military Personnel Flight, base mourn loss

By Master Sgt. David W. Pritchard
94th Airlift Wing career assistance advisor

June 24, 2002 A day I saw my dad celebrate his 75th birthday and my parents celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary. It was also a day that I and countless others lost a true friend and colleague. Ann Coates, our secretary and administrative assistant, who, for the past 13 years, was the heartbeat of our Military Personnel Flight, passed away, leaving those who knew and loved her with a sense of sadness and disbelief.

When you lose a friend or loved one, there are many psychological emotions that grip you, including immediate denial. Your mind tells you yes, but your heart begs no. So many of our waking hours are spent with coworkers, taking for granted we will see each other the next day. Suddenly, you look around, not fully accepting or believing what has just happened, and you ask why.

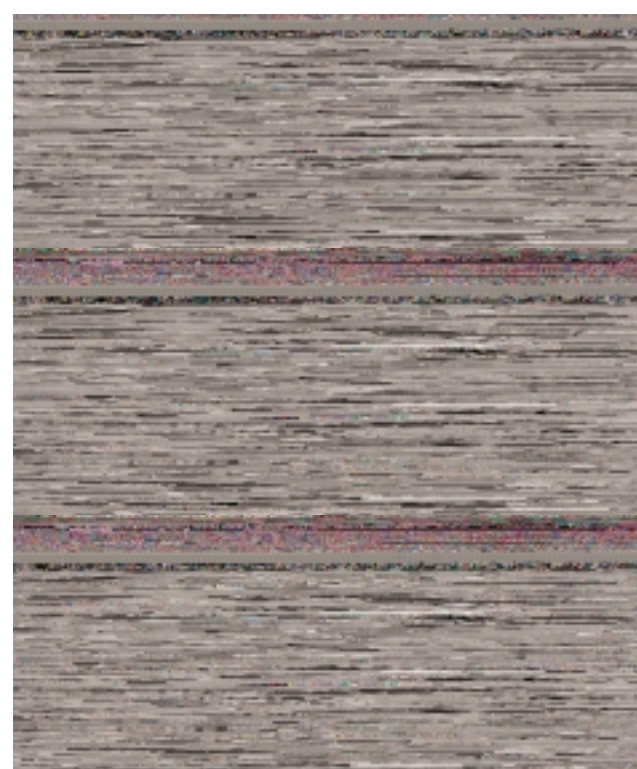
Ann was so many things to so many people. You simply could not find a more dedicated individual who constantly worked at and perfected her craft. However, this is not about Ann Coates “the employee,” this is about Ann Coates “the person.” Somewhat private by nature,

she exuded a quiet air of confidence, although never wishing to be center stage. You simply knew you were in the presence of a special lady. I remember greeting Ann one morning as she sat at her desk with her chin resting on the top of her hand and that ever present smile, and I remarked she had the style and grace of a Lena Horne. I think it embarrassed her, but at the same time made her feel pretty good.

Ann was a person of profound faith, solidified by the way she treated the people around her. Someone you could lean on, bend an ear, and come away feeling better about yourself or a situation. Talking to Ann was not only easy, but always entertaining and challenging. No matter the topic, Ann was versed and never afraid to voice a constructive opinion. In the 13 years I knew her, we discussed everything from Atlanta politics, to Pilgreens and Paschals, to the fine art of cooking collard greens and cornbread. Being a true southerner like myself, it was such a joy to engage in some good old conversation about our roots. All who shared stories with Ann would agree she was the perfect audience, peppering the talk with that signature, infectious laugh. That old saying “Laugh and the world laughs with you” was written for Ann.

Ann Coates was a lovely human being, and her memorial, or Celebration of Life was a true testimonial. She was eulogized by her pastor as a woman of “good understanding,” always there for those who needed her, giving inspiration even in her time of sickness. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, who laid the foundation for what was good and proper. It was just her way.

Anybody here, seen my old friend Annie,
Can you tell me where she’s gone?
Lord, she helped a lot of people,
But it seems the good they die young.
I just looked around and she was gone.



Didn’t you love the things that she stood for?
Didn’t she try to find some good in you and me?
And now, she’s free, but someday soon, we’ll meet again one day.

Has anybody here, seen my old friend Annie?
Can you tell me where she’s gone?
I thought I saw her walking up that hill,
But I just looked around and she was gone.

All of us will miss Ann dearly, but we will store the memories in our minds and bring them to the surface when we need reassurance or just to smile.

Flag day ceremony honors American symbol



Left: Military and civilian personnel at Dobbins Air Reserve Base honor the flag during the Flag Day ceremony June 14. (Photo by Don Peek)



Right: Staff Sgt. Xavier Sanford, Senior Airman Gloria Rodriguez and Master Sgt. Denise White of the 94th Airlift Wing Honor Guard unfurl the flag in preparation for its ascent above the base during the Flag Day ceremony June 14. (Photo by Don Peek)

Top Three memorialize Jonesville cemetery



Capt. David Dick, executive officer, 22nd Air Force affixes a small flag to the fence surrounding the Jonesville cemetery on Memorial Day. The Dobbins Top Three Association organized the flag placing event to honor the memories of those interred at the cemetery. A number of graves at the Jonesville cemetery pre-date World War I. Jonesville was a small community near Marietta prior to the land s annexation which resulted in the building of what is now Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Lockheed Martin. The residents of the community were relocated but the cemetery remains. (Photo by Don Peek)